## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A sheet bending brake for securing a work piece, comprising:

a clamping member having a lower leg extending therefrom;

a pivoting arm pivotally supported by and extending from the clamping member to define a clamping area with the lower leg;

a guide mechanism reacting between the clamping member and the pivoting arm for moving said pivoting arm between an open position and a closed position, the guide mechanism having pivot link with a body, the body having a top end and a bottom end and first and second side walls, the top end being rotatably coupled to the clamping member, the bottom end being rotatably coupled to the pivoting arm and having a pocket extending toward the top end and a pair of slots extending from one side wall to the other side wall, the pocket intersecting the pair of slots; and,

a spring mechanism located within the pocket and being coupled between the guide mechanism and the pivoting arm.

2. A sheet bending brake, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the spring mechanism includes a spring.

3. A sheet bending brake, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the spring mechanism includes a bar composed of a resilient material.

4. A sheet bending brake, as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a bolt threaded through an aperture in the pivoting arm and the first and second slots, the spring mechanism being located between the bolt and an end of the pocket.

5. A sheet bending brake, as set forth in claim 1, the pocket having a first portion and a second portion.

6. A sheet bending brake, as set forth in claim 5, the spring mechanism being located primarily within the first portion when the brake is in the open position.

7. A sheet bending brake, as set forth in claim 6, the spring mechanism being compressed when the brake is in the closed position, a deformed portion of the spring mechanism being located within the second portion.

8. A sheet bending brake, as set forth in claim 5, the first portion having a cylindrical shape.

9. A sheet bending brake, as set forth in claim 5, the second portion having a conical shape.

10. A guide mechanism for use with a sheet bending brake for securing a work piece, the brake including a clamping member having a lower leg extending therefrom, a pivot arm and a guide mechanism, the pivoting arm being pivotally supported by and extending from the clamping member to define a clamping area with the lower leg, the guide mechanism reacting between the clamping member and the pivoting arm for moving the pivoting arm between an open position and a closed position, comprising:

a pivot link having a body, the body having a top end and a bottom end and first and second side walls, the top end having an aperture extending from the first side wall to the second side wall, the bottom end having a pocket extending toward the top end and a pair of slots extending from one side wall to the other side wall, the pocket

intersecting the pair of slots;

a spring mechanism located within the pocket; and,

a rod inserted through the slots, the spring mechanism being located between the rod and an end of the pocket.

11. A guide mechanism, as set forth in claim 10, wherein the spring mechanism includes a spring.

12. A guide mechanism, as set forth in claim 10, wherein the spring mechanism includes a bar composed of a resilient material.

13. A guide mechanism, as set forth in claim 10, further comprising a bolt threaded through an aperture in the pivoting arm and the first and second slots, the spring mechanism being located between the bolt and an end of the pocket.

14. A guide mechanism, as set forth in claim 10, the pocket having a first portion and a second portion.

15. A guide mechanism, as set forth in claim 14, the spring mechanism being located primarily within the first portion when the brake is in the open position.

16. A guide mechanism, as set forth in claim 15, the spring mechanism being compressed when the brake is in the closed position, a deformed portion of the spring mechanism being located within the second portion.

17. A guide mechanism, as set forth in claim 14, the first portion having a cylindrical shape.

18. A guide mechanism, as set forth in claim 14, the second portion having a conical shape.